New York Post

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1970

PA Substituting Rock Wool For Asbestos at Trade Center

\RY CONNELLY

The Port Authority announced today that as a health precaution it had decided to substitute a rock wool fireproofing spray for asbestos in construction of the World Trade Center.

Use of an asbestos spray on the two World Trade Center towers, as well as on other consrtuction projects in the city, has caused mounting concern in health circles.

Robert N. Rickles, new commissioner of the city's Dept. of Air Resources, had said that "exposure to asbestos particles may result in lung cancer, mesothelioma and cancer of the peritoneum (a rare disease mainly afflicting asbestos workers)."

Tells of Cases

In a letter to Rickles today by Austin Tobin executive director of the Port Authority, Tobin said the authority had successfully tested and would now require its contractor to use a nonasbestos material.

"In addition," Tobin said, "the relative small amount of asbestos already in place will be cocooned to prevent exposure of the asbestos to the circulating air. In aplying the nonasbestos material, the contractor will continue to use tarpaulin covers to minimize dispersal of that material into the circulating air."

Tobin said the substitution would cost the Port of Authority $310,000 and its exterior wall contractor, ALCOA, $175,000.

Sees No New Peril

A question as to possible danger from silicates in the substitute material, Tobin said, had been answered with an assurance from the supplier "that any silicates present will not occasion a hazard to the public health."

Rickles has recommended that the city's new air pollution code include a provision banning use of asbestos sprays in the city. Stringent regulations governing the use of such sprays were issued earlier this month.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT PX-607